

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1162
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.09.2020**

PACKAGE FOR WORKERS

1162. SHRI ANURAG SHARMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to offer a specific social security package for such workers who are dependent at the mercy of their private employers and mostly have been rendered jobless owing to Corona Virus impact; and**
- (b) if so, the modalities of such a package and blueprint for roll out thereof as the number of beneficiaries is likely to be a very sizeable part of our population?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a) & (b): Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) provides relief in the form of cash compensation for up to 90 days to the Insured Persons (IPs) who become unemployed, under the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana provided that they have completed two years of insurable employment and has contributed not less than 78 days in each of the four consecutive contribution periods.

In order to provide relief to the IPs who have been rendered unemployed during COVID-19 Pandemic, the ESIC has enhanced the quantum of benefit and relaxed the eligibility condition of the scheme for the period 24.03.2020 to 31.12.2020 as under:

Contd..2/-

- 1. Relief to the extent of 50 % of the average per day earning to be paid up to maximum 90 days of unemployment instead of 25% of average per day earning earlier.**
- 2. The IP should have been in insurable employment for a minimum period of two years immediately before his/her unemployment and should have contributed for not less than 78 days in the contribution period immediately preceding the unemployment and minimum 78 days in one of the remaining three contribution periods in two years prior to unemployment. Earlier for getting relief under the scheme the IP should have contributed minimum 78 days contribution in 4 contribution periods prior to unemployment.**
- 3. Claim shall be due 30 days after date of unemployment as against 90 days earlier.**

The claim for relief may be created online on www.esic.in and submitted by the IP in the prescribed claim form duly completed, directly to the Branch office. The relaxations have been notified on 11.09.2020.

Further, in order to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on India's workforce, various initiatives have been taken by the Ministry of Labour and Employment as part of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) and Atmanirbhar Bharat which, inter-alia, include –

- (i) payment of 12% employers' share and 12% employees' share under Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), totalling 24% by the Government of India for six wage months from March to August, 2020 for all the establishments having up to 100 employees with 90% of such employees earning less than Rs.15,000 monthly wage;**
- (ii) reduction in Provident Fund (PF) contribution from 12% to 10% of wages for the wage months of May, June and July, 2020;**

contd..3/-

- (iii) non-refundable COVID advance from the PF by amending the EPF Scheme, 1952; till date, about Rs 39,000 crore have been withdrawn by members of EPFO.**
- (iv) extension in the date of filing of returns;**
- (v) issuing advisory to promptly attend to distress calls of workers /employees and also guide them in temporary shelters;**
- (vi) using Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) cess fund for transfer of funds amounting to approximately Rs.5000 crore in the bank account of around 1.83 crore construction workers affected by COVID-19 outbreak; and**
- (vii) Advising employers not to terminate workers and not to cut their wages.**
